

**Falls Practitioner Network 19th Jan 2022**

# **The National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS): insights on falls injuries and safer retrieval from the floor.**

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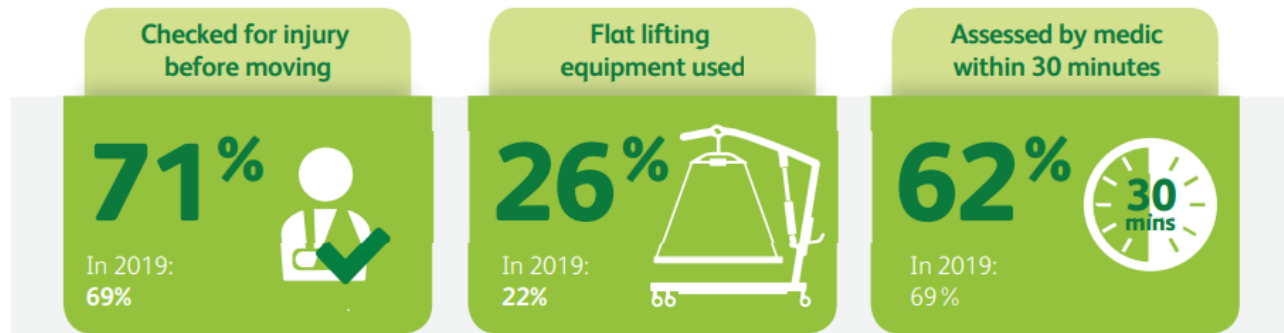
Patient Safety Clinical Lead Medical Specialties/ Older People

NHS England and NHS Improvement



# Why search the National Reporting and Learning System ?

[NAIF Autumn 2021 report](#) found poor performance for femoral fracture care against NAIF Key Performance Indicators and [NICE Quality Standard 86](#)



The NRLS can provide a richness of narrative data, and therefore provides additional insight to support quality improvement work.

# NRLS search strategy

## **NRLS Incident category slips, trips & falls**

- All locations except home, social care facility, public place, private house
- England & Wales

## **Two searches:**

- 01/07/2018 to 30/06/2019 ( Pre- Covid)
- 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021 (post first wave then into second)



# Results: reported harm

Table of reported fall related incidents identified by the Database search  
criteria, of harm

## CAUTION 1

THESE ARE REPORTED FALLS ONLY - THEREFORE CAN ONLY SERVE AS AN INDICATION OF ACTUAL STATE. FOR INFORMATION ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS PRESENTATION & TO GIVE A SENSE OF SCALE

- NOT STATISTICS
- NOT COMPARABLE TO ANYTHING
- CANNOT BE USED FOR BENCHMARKING

Reported degree of harm

Table

Reported degree of harm

Low  
Moderate  
Severe  
Death  
Total

# What was reviewed

All deaths in Group 1(88)

Random sample of 100 from Group 2 (138) = 188

Random samples of 100 from Groups 1 & 2 all harms

Harm	Group 1	Group 2	Total
Death	88	100	188
Severe	100	100	200
Moderate	100	100	200
Low	100	100	200
No	100	100	200
			<b>988</b>

# Review question.

***Are there examples of unsafe/ risky retrieval from the floor of a patient suspected to be injured?***

## **Themes identified.**

- Clear medical collapse, seizure, arrest, found dead on the floor
- Handling method not mentioned or injury described unclear if precautions needed - Most common
- Definite safer handling/ retrieval usually using flat lifting equipment, scoop or other fixation, +/- mention of assessment for injury
- Likely safe handling/ retrieval method according to injury or assessment details described
- Risky technique, handling / retrieval method does not seem appropriate for described injury

## **CAUTION 2**

The following examples are reported as resulted in death, severe or moderate harm

Reports are redacted, anonymised and shortened to keep essential learning points

Equipment commercial names kept to illustrate lifting technique

# Theme examples

## **Medical collapse**

*‘... found on the floor with blood to right side of face in cardiac arrest.’*

*‘... found on floor by CSW. Patient then had witnessed seizure.’*

## **Assessment or handling method not mentioned**

*‘... unwitnessed fall, shouted for help, seen lying on the floor on left side and complaining of pain on the right hip.’*

*‘... patient lying flat on the floor face down ... CT shows new on chronic right-sided subdural and subarachnoid haemorrhage.’*

# Theme Examples:

## Definite safer handling method

*‘... pain in right groin and right knee. Used hoverjack to transfer patient back onto bed.’*

*‘... abrasion on head ... also hip pain, nursing staff noted evidence of rotation so ... concerns of potential # staff requested the hoverjack’*

*‘... found on the floor. scoop stretchered back to bed. Xray confirmed fracture R neck of femur.’*

# Checked for injury before moving

*'... side rails up and bed higher than usual ... pain to ribs, hip and leg ... Cervical and Spinal precautions ... transferred to bed using hover board ... trauma call put out. Patient transferred to A&E. Confirmed fractured right hip.'*

*'Top to Toe Assessment ... patient complained of right hip pain ... leg appeared shortened and abducted.'*

*'Unable to use hoist due to pain in hip ?fracture ... Scoop borrowed from A&E. Pain relief before moving'*

# Potentially risky

## Order of assessment & care

*‘... hoisted back to bed ... complaining of pain to right hip. Analgesia given ... - confirmed fracture to right NOF’*

*‘... transferred to bed via hoist, with leg kept straight as possible. Once on bed, observations taken as per protocol X-ray confirmed NOF’*

*‘... found on the floor ... assisted by 2 nurses and a csw, patient was hoisted back to bed, patient was screaming while being hoist fractured neck of femur confirmed on xray’*

# Discussion/ thinking points (1)

## **ED dept practice .... same on a ward?**

*'Pt found on floor by trolley ... No LOC - Wound on forehead - ++ bleeding ... ED consultant, ED reg, ops manager, senior nurses and additional nurses present. Pt log rolled onto back, used scoop to get pt back onto trolley. Trauma mattress in situ and blocks. Pt moved to maj 9 for closer observation ... Plan for repeat CT head and spine.'*

## **Different acute hospitals – different approaches**

*'Patient reviewed by medical team. Trauma team and crash team called. Lifted onto bed with assistance of 6 using spinal board, secured in blocks and tape. Patient CT head and neck traumatic intercranial haemorrhage.'*

# Discussion/ thinking points (2)



## **Difficult to get flat lifting equipment into tight spaces**

*‘Unable to get lift into sideroom’*

### **Solution ?**

*‘... right leg shortened and rotated ... manoeuvred out of the bathroom on a slide sheet ... scooped off the floor with assistance of 6 onto the bed.’*

## **Equipment supply/ storage/ provision**

**Lack of equipment can force staff into unlicensed use of other products**

*‘moved back on to bed using Marsden weight board as clinical need greater than waiting for Hoverjack to become available’*

*‘Unable to locate hoverjack’*

### **Solution?**

*HCA contacted porters to bring hoverjack’*

# Discussion/ thinking points (3)

## **Assessment can be incredibly difficult though – rapid deterioration**

*‘unwitnessed fall 21.15, alert and oriented, stated had banged head ... stood up with minimal assistance, news-1 and gcs-15, seen by doctor at around 23.20 ... ct head ... deteriorated news 6 and gcs to 9 ... exceedingly large acute left - sided subdural haemorrhage with significant mass effect and midline shift.’*

## **Flatlifting ...might be this preferred option for deceased patients?**

*‘Patient found dead on the floor by one of the care support workers . 3 of us lifted him up and put him on the bed.’*

# Discussion & thinking points (4)

## **Delays & challenges if not in acute hospital**

*‘Blood from head laceration ... pain to left hip ... short and rotating, ambulance called for escalation to acute trust for xray and scan as patient on daltaparin ... one hour ambulance requested ... escalated after two hours as patient pain not being eased with what we were able to give ...’*

*‘Called 999 for an ambulance. made patient comfortable on the floor with blankets and pillow. Ambulance response to be 2 hours but requested they try to get here earlier as patient on the floor.’*

*‘We attempted to hoist Patient off the floor but he was in too much pain. Called 999 and advised not to move patient until ambulance crew arrive.’*

Thank you ....

Over to you for questions & discussion.

